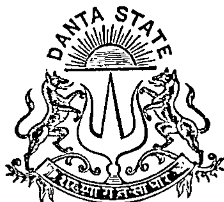


REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

DANTA STATE.

FOR THE YEAR

1933-34.

THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

DANTA STATE.

For the Year ending 31st March 1934.

CHAPTER I.

General and Political.

Geographical position.

The Danta State is situated on the north frontier of Gujarat and on the southern line of Rajputana, in a local division called "Nanee (little) Marwar." It lies between 24°0′ and 24°23′, north latitude and between 72°40′ and 73°5′ east longitude. Its extreme length from north to south and extreme breadth from east to west are 22 and 20 miles respectively.

Boundary.

2. The State is bounded on the north by the Sirohi State, on the south by Sudasana Taluka and the Gadhwada Thana of the old Mahi Kantha Agency (now called Sabar Kantha Agency), on the east and south by the Idar State and on the west by the Palanpur State.

5. The approximate total area of the State is 347 sq. miles, and the population which is scattered in about 212 villages, is 26,172 persons (males 13,801 and females 12,371) according to the census of 1931, as against 23,023 persons (males 12,087 and females 10,936) of the previous census. Thus, during the last decade the population has increased by 13% which is an index of the prosperity, happiness and contentment of the people in general under the present regime. Out of the total population, 23,143 are Hindus, 2,727 Mahommedans and 302 professing other religions. The proportion of population to area is 75 per sq. mile, which is low indeed, but is mainly due to a greater portion of the State being hilly and covered with jungle. The prevailing languages are Gujarati and Marwari, while the Bhill tribes have a dialect of their own which is a mixture of local Gujarati and Marwari. The Court language is Gujarati.

Area, Population and Language

6. The statistical figures given in this report relate to the year ending 31st March, excepting those relating to the Revenue Department which follows the old and convenient practice of reckoning its year from November to October corresponding to the Hindu Divali year.

Statistics.

The State pays an annual amount of Rs. 2,278-0-1 as Ghas Dana to the Baroda State through the British Government.

7. The Ruling House of Danta belongs to the Barad sept of the Parmar Rajputs, being descended in direct line from the celebrated Emperor Shri Vikramaditya of Ujjain. It is interesting to note that the family name Barad is derived from the name of a powerful Parmar Raja called Shri Dharani Varah who held sway over a large portion of Rajputana and who is supposed to have subsequently divided his kingdom among his nine

Early History.

3. The country is picturesque, being almost entirely hilly with thick forest save for the southern and western portions which are somewhat plane and open. The Aravalli Ranges throw their outlying arms forming numerous hills and valleys, the highest peak "Ghodi" rising 2,817 ft. above the sea-level. The hills are covered over with considerable forest-growth and owing to the abundance of water form a natural habitat for wild animals, viz., tiger, panther, hyeana, bear, pig, etc. The country is well drained by numerous small streams which flow throughout the rainy season and empty their contents into either of the two important rivers, "Sabarmati" and "Saraswati". The former is the bigger of the two and for a considerable length forms the dividing boundary between the Idar and Danta State. The latter, though smaller, is held very sacred by the Hindus all over the Indian world. It rises from the "Menagar" hill in the extreme north, flows past the famous temple of "Shri Koteshwar", then runs right through the very heart of this State and subsequently enters the territories of the Palanpur and Baroda States at a village called Mokeshwar. She is also known as "Kumarka" or the Virgin river for the fact that like other rivers she does not join either the sea or a big river but disappears in the Runn of Cutch.

Physical aspect

4. The climate is dry and temperate all throughout the year, the maximum and minimum of tempe-ratures recorded being 40° F. and 108° F. respectively. The excessive sultriness of the days in summer is considerably relieved by the cool breezes of the evening and early morning. The rains break out generally at the fag end of June and continue well through July, August and September. The monsoon is at its best in August. The normal annual rain-fall is about 40 inches.

Climate and Rain-fall.

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brothers. " पृथ्वी परमारां तणी " and " नवकोटी मारवाड " are popular sayings familiar even today in Rajputana, as bearing witness of the above fact. The descendents of Shri Dharani Varah came to be known as Varah, Barah, Barad and subsequently Barad according to the well-known rules of phonetics. The town of Baradmere in Marwar still retains the name in testimony of its being founded by one of the descendents of Dharani Varah.

The province of Sindh with Nagar Thatta, Umarkote, etc., had been apportioned out to the sons of Dharani Varah and they ruled there in peace for more than three centuries. Pressing and persistent invasions of the Mohomedans on that province, however, forced the then Maharana Shri Jasrajji to migrate elsewhere. This Maharana Shri Jasrajji came to Mount Arasur, conquered the surrounding country and laid the foundation of the present Danta State in 1068 A. D It is worthy of note that Danta is the oldest established State among those comprised in this part of the country.

Maharana Shri Jasrajji's successor Kedarsinghji extended and consolidated the State, which, owing to the vicissitudes of fortune, was considerably reduced in the 17th century. Danta Raj was once very extensive and prosperous and included the Santhpur Tehsil of Sirohi, a tract in Mewar as far as the present Kotda cantonment, Sudasna Taluka and Gadhwada Thana, a portion of Idar upto Khed-Brahma, eastern portion of Palanpur, and Kheralu Mahal of Baroda. It is a matter of recent history that Kheralu Mahal was mortgaged to the Subah of Gujarat in 1650 A. D. for a considerable loan. The Jagir of Sudasana was granted by Maharana Shri Gaj Singhji to his younger brother Jaswant Singhji in 1682 A. D. for his maintenance, and the Gadhwada district was given in Jagir to Gadhia Koli Chiefs at varying periods for their services to the State.

The Rulers of Danta, however, steered the State safely through the stormy periods of Moghal and Maratha ascendancy. On the advent of British influence in this part of the country the Danta State was among others the first to enter into an agreement with the British Power in 1812 A. D. and since then the State has seen days of comparative peace and prosperity.

The State and its Ruler.

8. The present Ruling Prince of Danta, Maharanaji Shri Bhawani Singhji Saheb Bahadur was born on Bhadrapad Sud 8th Samvat year 1956 corresponding to the 13th September 1899 A. D., had his training at the Mayo College, Ajmer, and was for a number of years associated with the administration of the State before he ascended the Gadi on the 10th March 1926. The Ruler is a member of the Chamber of Princes (Narendra Mandal) in his own right.

The State is entitled to a permanent dynastic salute of 9 guns. The accession to the Gadi is governed by the rule of primogeniture. The State enjoys independent sovereign powers with full civil and criminal jurisdiction with authority to make its own legislation.

Particulars of the Ruler's family.

9 The Maharanaji Shri Saheb's first marriage took place with the sister of Maharaj Shri Bijai Singhji of Raoti (Jodhpur); and his second with a sister of H. H. the Raja Saheb Bahadur of Sohawal, a State under Baghelkhand Agency C. I. Both the Maharani Sahebas died in 1923, the latter leaving behind her one Maharaj Kumari Saheba, now aged 17. The present Maharaniji Shri Champawatiji Saheba is a sister of the Thakur Nahar Singhji Saheb of Auwa, a premier noble of Marwar. By her the Maharanaji Shri Saheb Bahadur has two Maharaj Kumars and three Maharaj Kumari Sahebas. Of the two sons, the elder Maharaj Kumar Shri Prithiraj Singhji Saheb born on th

22nd July 1928, is the heir apparent; and the younger Maharaj Kumar Shri Madhusudan Singhji Saheb was born during the year under report, on the 30th May 1933.

Among other members of the family are Maharaj Shri Laxman Singhji aged 9 years the nephew, Maharaj Shri Dalpat Singhji aged 52 the uncle, Maharaj Shri Prithi Singhji aged 29 and Maharaj Shri Narayan Singhji aged 27 the cousins, of Maharanaji Shri Saheb Bahadur. The last two named have had their training at the Mayo College and are associated with the administration of the State as Naib-Dewan and Revenue Commissioner, respectively.

Central Administration

10. The Administration of the State is carried on under the personal guidance and direction of the Maharanaji Shri Saheb Bahadur, with the assistance of the Dewan. The authority and powers of the Heads of Departments are well defined and each within his own sphere is independent of the other. In important matters, however, the Darbar is always accessible r advice and guidance; and the success and efficiency so far ttained in the administration are mainly due to the Darbar's easy accessibility and conscientious application to the affairs of the State.

Political Relations

11. As remarked in the previous year's report, the State was transferred from the Mahikantha Agency to the Rajputana Agency, the change having come into effect from 1st April 1933. Since that date the State has come into direct political relations with the Government of India, through the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana, and has been attached to the Jaipur Residency as a temporary measure.

The political relations with the Paramount Power and the neighbouring States remained most friendly and cordial as usual.

Ruler's Movements.

12. During the year under Report Maharanaji Shri Saheb Bahadur visited the following places:—

(1) Jodhpur. (2) Rohat.
(3) Mount Abu. (4) Auwa.
(5) Ajmer.

To remain in close and personal touch with the subjects of the State and to acquaint himself personally with their wants and grievances, the Darbar toured in the State visiting various Thannas and villages at different times throughout the year.

Distinguished Visitors.

13 *Among the distinguished guests* who visited Danta during the year were:—

1. H. H. the Maharaja Saheb Bahadur, Limbdi.
2. H. H. the Raja Saheb Bahadur, Sohawal. (C. I.)
3. Lt. Colonel G. D. Ogilvie, C. S. I., C. I. E.,
   Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana.
4. Mr. A. C. Lothian, C. I. E., I. C. S.,
   Resident in Jaipur and Western States of Rajputana, accompanied by Mrs Lothian.
5. Lt. L. A. C. Fry, I. A.,
   Personal Assistant to Hon'ble the A. G. G. Rajputana.
6. Maharaj Shri Kishor Singhji, Banswara.
7. Maharaj Shri Madan Singhji, Banswara.
8. Maharaj Shri Chhatra Singhji, Banswara.
9. Maharaj Shri Lal Singhji, Banswara.
10. Maharaj Shri Shanker Singhji, Banswara.
11. Thakur Shri Nahar Singhji of Auwa, Marwar.
12. Mr. Pilaji Rao Gaekwar,
    Suba Saheb, Mehesana Prant, Baroda State.

Important Events.

14. (1) The birthday of His Imperial Majesty was celebrated on the 3rd June 1933. A Salute of 31 guns was fired at sun-rise and the day was observed as a public holiday throughout the State.

(2) On the 11th November, the Armistice day, there was arranged as usual a complete suspension of all business for 2 minutes commencing from 11 a. m. as a silent tribute to all those who laid their lives during the World War in the cause of the King Emperor.

(3) The 12th December was observed as a public holiday being the Coronation Day of His Majesty the King Emperor.

(4) The 35th birthday anniversary of the Maharanaji Shri Saheb Bahadur was celebrated on the 28th August 1933 with great eclat as usual. A public Darbar was held where leading ryots, elite of the town, Officers and Jagirdars had assembled to pay their homage to their master. Sweets were distributed to the children and food and clothing to the poor and destitute people.

(5) The birth-day anniversary of the Heir-apparent Shriman Maharaj Kumar Saheb was celebrated on the 28th July 1933 with great rejoicings.

(6) Court mourning was observed on the 22nd February 1934 and the 27th March 1934 being the days of the funeral of the late King of the Belgians and the late Dowager Queen of the Netherlands, respectively. All the courts, offices and schools were closed as a mark of respect to the memory of the illustrious dead.

(7) Melancholy news of the passing away of the Heir-Apparent of the Baria State, in the very prime of

youth, were received here with great concern. In view of the most friendly relations existing between the Rulers of the respective States, all courts, offices and schools were ordered to be closed for 2 days in memory of the deceased.

(8) An address and the title of "BHARAT DHARMA BHUSHAN" were presented to Maharanaji Shri Saheb Bahadur on the 28th August 1934 at the Capital, before a large gathering of the elite and the officials of the State, by Mr. M. R. Bhatt, M. A., on behalf of the Bharat Dharma Mahamandal of Benares.

Domestic Occurrences

15. Maharaniji Shri Champawatiji Saheba gave birth to a son, Maharaj Kumar Shri Madhusudan Singhji Bahadur, on the 30th May 1933. There were great rejoicings in the State and all the offices and institutions were closed for a day.

An unusual occurrence happened on the 15th January 1934. An earthquake shock of slight intensity was experienced at about 2-15 P. M., on that date, attended by slow rumbling noise. Tremors came in succession and lasted for about half a minute. Happily no damage to life or property was done, in the State. However, most harrowing tales of wholesale devastation wrought by the earthquake in the Province of Bihar came pouring in subsequent few days and a great gloom was cast on all In response to the appeal of H. E. the Viceroy for helping the stricken people of Bihar, the Maharanaji Shri Saheb Bahadur and the members of the Ruling Family jointly contributed a sum of Rs. 1279-8-0 and the officials and the subjects of the State by public subscription collected a sum of Rs. 991-8-0. Both the amounts of contribution were remitted to the Viceroy's Bihar Earthquake Relief Fund.

16. Mr. R. P. Kanhere, B. Ag., Assistant Revenue Officer, was promoted to act as Assistant Revenue Commissioner, with effect from 1st January 1934.

Changes in Personnel.

Dr. Ramaniklal I. Munim, M. B. B. S., was appointed Medical Officer with effect from 1st June 1933, vice Dr. Ambashanker M. Vyas, L. C. P. S., Chief Medical Officer, proceeding on sick leave.

A new post of Assistant Superintendent of Police was created with effect from 1st July 1933, and Mr. Hiralal S. Trivedi, a retired Sub-Inspector of Police of the Bombay Police Department, was appointed to fill that post.

It is regretted that Dr. Ambashanker M. Vyas, L. C. P. S., the Chief Medical Officer of the State, who had proceeded on sick leave owing to long protracted illness, died on account of dropsy on the 15th July 1933, at a ripe old age of 55, at his native place at Limbdi (Kathiawar). I wish to place on record loyal and satisfactory services of Dr. Vyas to the State extending over 25 years.

CHAPTER II.

Land Administration.

For administrative convenience the State is divided into five divisions or Mahals, viz, (1) Danta, (2) Mataji, (3) Hadad, (4) Tarsang and (5) Joita; each, except the first, being under the charge of a Mahalkari who is also a Magistrate. The Danta Mahal is under the direct charge of the Revenue Commissioner. The Mahals are divided into groups of villages locally known as Pattas, each under the supervision of a Talati or village head-man. One Circle Inspector or Kaltaru has been appointed to each of the five Mahals. All are under the supervision of the Revenue Commissioner.

Administrative Units

2 Maharaj Shri Narayan Singhji, the Revenue Commissioner, remained in charge of the Department all throughout the year.

Personnel.

3. The prevailing land assessment system in vogue is the Bhag-batai or share-rental system. It has by long experience been found beneficial to the conjoined interests of the State and the ryots. Its success is mainly due to the constant vigilence and efficient supervision of the Revenue Commissioner and the avoidance of delay directed by him in weighing the crops.

Land Revenue System

4. All the cultivators are tenants-at-will, none of them having any permanent or vested interest in his holding, as he has no right to alienate either by way of mortgage or sale or in any other way. But so much care is taken in maintainin continuity of tenures that cultivators have continued in t

Nature of Tenancy.

holding from generation to generation, and transfers of land are very rare.

5. The soil in the greater part of the Danta and Joita Mahals is alluvial sandy, formed by the acqueous action of the rivers, and that in the other Mahals is clayey loam formed in situ by the disintegration of the underlying rock. The soil, though not very rich and fertile, is capable of producing fairly good crops by manuring and irrigation.

Nature of Soil.

6. The agricultural population consists chiefly of Dungri Bhills, Garassias, Kolis, Thakardas, Kunbis, Mumans and Rajputs. The Bhills and Garassias are very backward and poor agriculturists. They resort to a sort of shifting cultivation and grow only so much as would be sufficient for their wants. These people are yet in a primitive stage of life in their social and economic conditions. Attempts, however, are being made to ameliorate their condition by persuading them to stick to permanent cultivation. The Kunbis, Mumans and Rajputs are intelligent and hard-working cultivators and are generally well-off economically.

Agricultural Population

7. During the year under report the agricultural stock consisted of 8,391 oxen, 11646 cows, including calves, 418 he-and 7 591 she-buffaloes including calves, 136 horses, 139 mares, 57 colts and fillies, 343 donkeys, 10,542 sheep and goats 3,643 ploughs and 190 carts in the State There was no serious outbreak of any epidemic among the cattle and the supply of fodder was generally sufficient throughout.

Agricultural stock.

8. The chief Kharif or monsoon crops grown are maize, sesamum, castor-oil seeds, coarse millets and cereals. Among the Rabi or cold-whether crops are mainly wheat, gram and rapeseed.

Staple Crops.

9. Cattle-breeding and animal husbandry form the chief secondary occupation of the agricultural classes This has got impetus by the presence of vast tracts for grazing and the nominal fees charged by the State for the purpose. The wealth of a cultivator is usually reckoned by the number of cattle he owns.

Subsidiary Industry.

10. The total rainfall during the year under report amounted to 44.58 inches. The rainfall though sufficient, was unevenly distributed, the heavy falls being in the months of July and August. As a result there were heavy floods and much damage was caused to the harvest of the preceeding hot weather crops. The kharif or monsoon crops, too, were damaged by the waterlogged conditions resulting out of incessant rains. Then again the rabbi or cold weather crops viz wheat, gram and rape-seed were damaged by frost in December. In short the adverse climatic conditions prevailing during the year under report had adversely affected the seasonal yield of crops, to some extent

Seasons & Outturn

11. There are no irrigation tanks constructed or masonry dams put up across the current of the rivers in the State. By the riverside the people usually throw earthen bunds across the current and thus divert water through channels to their fields. Sub-soil water in wells is found fairly well near the surface at a depth of about 25 to 40 feet below the ground-level, and a number of wells with Arath or persian-wheels for lifting water are working all throughout the State.

Irrigation of Crops

12. The total number of pucca wells in the State is 551, of which 6 were sunk during the year under report. The State has always followed the policy of encouraging the ryots to sink more wells by helping them in all possible ways, viz:—

Wells

(1) by grant of tagavi loans with or without interest repayable by small annual instalments;

(2) by remission of vaje (raj-bhag) for a certain number of years.

(3) by paying gratuitously the full expenses of construction.

13. With a view to help the ryots, tagavi advances at a low rate of interest were made to needy cultivators for bonafide productive purposes, viz., for the purchase of seed, cattle, implements, sinking of wells, etc., to the extent of Rs. 730 during year under report.

Tagavi Advances.

14. The total land revenue receipts, including past arrears, amounted to Rs. 62,487 during the year as against Rs. 65,107 of the previous year. The total expenditure of the Revenue Department, during the year under report, amounted to Rs. 6,267.

Revenue Receipts and Expenditure.

15. During the year under report, the inspection and verification of 86 boundary marks (pillars) were made on the boundaries of villages of this State and those of the Sirohi State, conjointly by the representatives of both the States. Arrangements will be made to effect repairs to the demolished pillars, conjointly by the States in the course of the next year.

Inspection of Boundary Marks.

16. Mr. R. P. Kanhere, B. Ag., Assistant Revenue Officer, (now Assistant Revenue Commissioner,) remained in charge of the Boundary Department of the State all throughout the year.

Personnel.

CHAPTER III.

Revenue and Finance.

Income from all sources during the year under review amounted to Rs 1,77,100 as against Rs. 1,77,075 in the previous year, which with the opening balance of Rs. 3709, brings the total receipts of the year to Rs. 1,80,809.

Income

2. The total expenditure during the year under report amounted to Rs. 1,77,681 as against Rs. 1,73,755 in the previous year, leaving a balance of Rs. 3,128 at the close of the year.

Expenditure.

STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS.

No.	Description.	1932—33	1933—34
	Balance	389	3,709
1	Land Revenue	65,107	62,487
2	Local Cess	124	205
3	Customs Revenue...	45,433	44,792
4	Forest Revenue	15,836	20,575
5	Opium Revenue, Abkari Revenue including Bhang and Ganja ...	16,874	15,683
6	Stamps and Registration ...	2,915	3,406
7	Vero	5,080	4,986
8	Salami	119	119
9	Nazarana	1,847	1,935
10	Law and Justice	8,165	7,588
11	Recoveries	6,580	5,472
12	Extraordinary receipts	3,750	2,865
13	Miscellaneous	2,911	3,534
14	House Site	2,334	3,453
	GRAND TOTAL...	1,77,464	1,80,809

STATEMENT SHOWING EXPENDITURE.

No.	Description.	1932—33	1933 34
1	Admtnistration	44,019	42,672
2	Police	16,842	16,416
3	Educational Department... ...	4,425	5,538
4	Medical Department	4,455	5,785
5	P. W. Department	19,875	21,178
6	Palace Expenses...	41,473	42,632
7	Raj Kharch	9,500	9,638
8	Dharmada...	2,371	4,528
9	Kamgiri	5,128	3,965
10	Stable, Bagikhana and Motors ...	12,402	12,108
11	Topkhana	1,215	1,172
12	Ghas Dana	2,283	2,283
13	Miscellaneous	4,837	3,563
14	Tagavi	0	730
15	Pension Gratuity...	2,968	2,968
16	Unforeseen Charges	1,963	1,205
	TOTAL ...	1,73,755	1,77,681
	Closing Balance...	3,709	3,128
	GRAND TOTAL...	1,77,465	1,80,809

CHAPTER IV.

PROTECTION.

(1) Law and Justice.

Legislation.

The State has got some local laws and regulations of its own. The courts are guided principally by those laws and follow the spirit of British Laws and procedure both Civil and Criminal.

Courts.

2. For the administration of Justice there are in the State the following Courts with varying degrees of jurisdictional powers:—

I. The four Mahalkaries' Courts at Mataji, Hadad, Tarsang and Joita, which are invested with powers to hear suits upto Rs. 500/— and also to exercise the powers of Second Class Magistrates within their respective Mahals.

II. The court of the State Munsiff, which is empowered to hear all kinds of civil suits relating to property and other rights as well as money transactions upto the value of Rs. 5,000/—. The Court also exercises the powers of the First Class Magistrate and is presided over by Mr. Prasannakumar P. Desai, B. A., LL. B.

III. The Court of the Naib-Dewan, which is empowered to hear Civil suits of the value of more than Rs. 5,000

in original side upto Rs. 10,000. It also exercises the powers of the District and Sessions Judge and as such has the power to hear appeals against the decisions of the State Munsiff and First Class Magistrate and the Mahalkaries. It is presided over by Maharaj Shri Prithi Singhji.

IV. The Court of the Dewan. It has got unlimited Civil powers to hear all kinds of suits and is also empowered to hear appeals over the decisions of the Court of the Naib-Dewan. It is presided over by the Dewan Mr. Ramprasad Bapalal Divanji, B. A.

V. The Huzur Court presided over by the Darbar, is the highest and final Court of appeal in all Civil and Criminal matters.

Civil Suits.

3. The number of Civil suits left pending last year was 5, and 19 fresh suits were filed during the year. Out of the total of 24 suits, 19 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 5 at the end of the year. The total value of suits filed was Rs. 734-8-9.

Criminal Cases

4. The number of offences both cognizable and non-cognizable reported during the year was 152, which, with the balance of 34 of the last year, totalled 186. Out of these, 162 were disposed of and 24 remained pending at the end of the year. Out of the total number of 303 persons brought to trial, 110 were acquitted or discharged, 144 were convicted, 2 were committed to the Sessions and 47 remained pending trial.

The number of sessions cases in balance last year was 2, and 2 new cases were committed to the Sessions during the year under report. Thus, the total number of cases during the year under report was 4 Out of these, 3 were tried an

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(1) Law and Justice.

Legislation.

The State has got some local laws and regulations of its own. The courts are guided principally by those laws and follow the spirit of British Laws and procedure both Civil and Criminal.

Courts.

2. For the administration of Justice there are in the State the following Courts with varying degrees of jurisdictional powers:—

I. The four Mahalkaries' Courts at Mataji, Hadad, Tarsang and Joita, which are invested with powers to hear suits upto Rs. 500/— and also to exercise the powers of Second Class Magistrates within their respective Mahals.

II. The court of the State Munsiff, which is empowered to hear all kinds of civil suits relating to property and other rights as well as money transactions upto the value of Rs. 5,000/—. The Court also exercises the powers of the First Class Magistrate and is presided over by Mr. Prasannakumar P. Desai, B. A , LL. B.

III. The Court of the Naib-Dewan, which is empowered to hear Civil suits of the value of more than Rs. 5,000

in original side upto Rs. 10,000. It also exercises the powers of the District and Sessions Judge and as such has the power to hear appeals against the decisions of the State Munsiff and First Class Magistrate and the Mahalkaries. It is presided over by Maharaj Shri Prithi Singhji.

IV. The Court of the Dewan. It has got unlimited Civil powers to hear all kinds of suits and is also empowered to hear appeals over the decisions of the Court of the Naib-Dewan. It is presided over by the Dewan Mr. Ramprasad Bapalal Divanji, B. A.

V. The Huzur Court presided over by the Darbar, is the highest and final Court of appeal in all Civil and Criminal matters.

Civil Suits.

3. The number of Civil suits left pending last year was 5, and 19 fresh suits were filed during the year. Out of the total of 24 suits, 19 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 5 at the end of the year. The total value of suits filed was Rs. 734-8-9.

Criminal Cases

4. The number of offences both cognizable and non-cognizable reported during the year was 152, which, with the balance of 34 of the last year, totalled 186. Out of these, 162 were disposed of and 24 remained pending at the end of the year. Out of the total number of 303 persons brought to trial, 110 were acquitted or discharged, 144 were convicted, 2 were committed to the Sessions and 47 remained pending trial.

The number of sessions cases in balance last year was 2, and 2 new cases were committed to the Sessions during the year under report. Thus, the total number of cases during the year under report was 4 Out of these, 3 were tried a

decided, leaving a balance of 1 at the close of the year. The total number of persons sent up for trial was 12, out of which, 1 was acquitted, 7 were convicted and 4 stand pending trial.

Civil Appellate Work

5. There was 1 civil appeal before the Huzur Court which is not decided and remained in arrears. 4 Civil appeals were lying in balance from the previous year and no new one was filed in the Court of the Dewan, during the year under review. All of these are undisposed and remain in arrears. The Naib-Dewan and District Judge had on board 3 appeals, out of which 1 was disposed of and 2 remained pending at the close of the year.

Criminal Appellate Work

6. There was no Criminal appeal this year before the Huzur Court. The Court of the Dewan had 2 appeals on board, of which one was decided modifying the decision of the Lower Court and one remained pending. The Naib-Dewan and Sessions Judge heard 11 appeals, and all were decided with the result that the decisions of the Lower Courts were modified in 2, confirmed in 6, and 3 appeals were rejected.

The very small number of appeals goes to show that the contending parties found that their complaints and grievances received due and judicious consideration at the hands of original courts.

Execution of Decrees.

7. There were 21 applications including 13 of the last year for the execution of decrees. Relief was granted to 14 to the aggregate value of Rs. 1105-6-9 and 13 are pending.

Direct System of Summons

8. The system of direct services of summons between this State and the neighbouring States as well as the British Districts is in force and has worked satisfactorily.

9. Extradition arrangements for the direct surrender of offenders, between this State and the neighbouring States of Palanpur, Sirohi, Udaipur and Jodhpur, with the single exception of the Idar State, are in force. The following statements give the details of extradition cases and the number of persons surrendered by and to, this State.—

Extradition

Surrendered by Danta State.

	Cases.	Persons.
To British authorities	...	...
To Indian States	1	1
Total ...	1	1

Surrendered to Danta State.

	Cases.	Persons.
By British authorities	...	...
By Indian States	2	6
Total ...	2	6

10. The Dewan is the Ex-Officio Registrar. During the year under report 16 documents were presented for registration, of which 15 were duly registered and 1 was rejected. The total value of the property dealt with was Rs. 1415 and the fees realized for the registration of these documents amounted to Rs. 59-8-0 as against Rs. 29 in the last year.

Registration.

(II) Police.

11. For the purpose of administrative convenience and economy in expenditure no sepatate Military Force is maintained in the State, but the total Police force, which is 150 rank and

Police.

file, has been divided into (i) the foot-police for the maintenance of peace and order and for the detection and investigation of crime and (ii) the mounted police for similar duties and for distant patrols.

The ratio of the Police force to the population and area comes to 1 to 174·5 heads of population and to 1 to 2·3 square miles of territory.

The proportion may look a little high, but the hilly nature of the country, the extended and long frontiers with foreign States all around, the turbulent nature of the hill tribes (Bhills and Garassias) inhabiting on both sides and their mischievous propensities, all these and other considerations necessitate the State maintaining a strong and consolidated Police force for proper and effective bandobast.

Personnel.

12. The Department remained throughout in charge of Mr. Hiralal S. Trivedi, the Asstt. Superindent of Police assisted by 1 Inspector of Police and 5 Sub-Police Inspectors posted in the different Mahals. For the proper training of the police in drill and discipline the State has engaged the services of a war veteran (Mr. Sohansingh) a discharged non-commissioned officer of the 13th Rajput Infantry, who had seen active life in Mesopotamia and East Africa during the Great War.

Equipment

13. The Police Force is supplied with full uniform dresses and is armed with 100 breech loading rifles and 53 M. L. fire arms.

Police Working.

14. The following statement shows the working of the police during the year:—

Cases reported	74
Accused arrested	57

Accused sent for trial	56
Persons convicted	42
Acquitted or discharged	14
Percentage of conviction	73.7

Recovery of Stolen Property.

15. The total value of the property stolen and recovered during the year was Rs. 1753-2-6 and Rs. 639-9-0 respectively, which gives the percentage recoveries of 36·5.

Accidental Deaths

16. There were this year 10 deaths from various accidents as shown below:—

Snake bite	1
Drowning	5
Burns...	2
Killed by wild beasts	0
Other accidents	2
Total...	10

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Drowning	...	...	...	...	5
Burns...	...	...	...	...	2
Killed by wild beasts		...	...	...	0
Other accidents	...	...	...	...	2
			Total...		10

17. The total expenditure of the Police Department this year came to Rs. 16,416/— as against Rs. 16,842/— last year.

Expenditure.

(III) Jails.

18. There are Lock-ups at Shree Mataji, Hadad, Vijlasan (Tarsang Mahal) and Joita and a Central Jail at Danta Bhavangadh. The number of persons confined during the year under report was 66, as against 80 in the last year. The sanitary arrangements are very good and the discipline is very well maintained. Separate arrangements are made to keep male and female prisoners apart from each other.

19. The general health of the prisoners was very good throughout the year under report. They do the indoor works such as grinding grain, and other manual labour. Continued efforts are made to train them to do the hand-loom work, bamboo work such as making baskets, mats, etc, and also some garden works. It is the Darbar's keen desire to train them up and to take such work from them so that it may enable them to earn their honest livelihood when they are released from the prison.

20. The *First Class Magistrate works Ex-Officio as* Superintendent of Jails and the Medical Officer looks after the health of prisoners.

CHARTER V.

Production and Distribution.

Sources of Production.

The main sources of production are agriculture, cattle-breeding and forests.

Wages, Labour and Prices.

2. Bulk of the population of the State consists of agriculturists. Only a few who are without the means either of land or capital and are consequently out of employment are available as day labourers in fields or in the Public Works Department. The following statement gives an idea of the daily wages of skilled artizans and unskilled labour prevailing during the year:—

Unskilled labour	Rs.	0—3—0	per day.
Blacksmiths	Rs.	0-12—0	" "
Masons	Rs.	1—0—0	" "
Carpenters	Rs.	1—4—0	" "

Owing to the general and world-wide trade depression the prices of food-stuffs during the year under review had declined considerably. The following comparative statement gives the prices of the staple food-stuffs of the previous and present years:—

Name of food-stuffs.	Previous year.	Present year.	Per 40/- lbs.
Wheat ...	Rs. 1-10-0	Rs. 1-7-0	"
Bajri ...	" 1-4-0	" 1-3-0	"
Oats ...	" 1-4-0	" 1-3-0	"
Maize ...	" 1-4-0	" 1-2-0	"
Udid pulse...	" 3-8-0	" 2-12-0	"
Mug pulse...	" 3-8-0	" 2-12-0	"
Course-millets	" 1-0-0	" 0-14-0	"
Gram ...	" 1-4-0	" 1-2-0	"

Exports and Imports.

3. The Chief trade of the State consists in the export of the surplus produce of agriculture, viz., wheat, maize, gram, rape-seeds, ghee, etc., and forest products, viz., bamboo, baskets, gums, honey, wax, safet musali, etc. The chief imports are sugar, cloths, salt, cereals, spices and condiments, kerosine, stationery, cutlery, brass and copper wares, etc.

Customs.

4. An ad-valorem customs duty is levied on all imports and exports in accordance with the revised schedule of rates passed and put into force from 30th October 1932. The total receipts under this head during the year under report amounted to Rs. 44,792/- as against Rs. 45,433/- in the last year.

Trade Conditions.

5. The world-wide trade depression had its repercussion here also in the form of scarcity of money, unsettled prices and a heavy decline in the prices of food products. Moreover, the absence of a Railway line running through the State is a constant hinderance to the development of the general resources of the State. Consequently the means of transport of goods are furnished by camels, asses and bullock-carts only.

6. Practically almost all the important villages in the State have been connected with the Capital by roads freshly laid. The new roads laid out in the previous year have been considerably improved, and a new pucca metalled road from Shri Mataji, an important centre of pilgrimage in the State, to the frontier, joining that town with the Railway Station of Abu Road is being laid out. The people of the State have thus been afforded the facilities of easy communications. The total length of the motorable roads in the State is 256 miles, out of which 135 miles are roads serviceable only during the 8 months of the fair weather, while the roads serviceable all throughout the year even during the monsoon are 121 miles.

Roads

7. Motor Lorry Services are regularly run by private individuals between Palanpur and Danta-Bhavangadh, Danta-Bhavangadh and Shri Mataji, and Shri Mataji and Koteshwar, for carrying passengers and goods. The State has given a monopoly to Messrs. Merwanji Rustomji & Co, of Mt. Abu, to run a motor service between Shri Mataji and Abu Road. The motor service has been regularly working from 1st March 1934.

Motor Service

8. The Public Works Department of the State spent an aggregate sum of Rs. 21,478 on original works and repairs, during the year under report.

Public Works Department.

9. There are great possibilities of developing the forest resources of the State by laying out plantations of valuable timber, such as teak, by extraction of catechu from Khair and by propagation and culture of *lac* on Khakhara trees. The re-organisation of the Forest Department, so as to make it efficient and paying, is under contemplation of the D...'

Forest

The ,present sources of forest revenue are fees charged for cutting bamboo and timber, for grazing cattle and for collecting Timbru leaves, Aval bark, gums, honey, wax, etc. The total Forest revenue for the year under review was Rs. 20,575/- as against Rs. 15,836/-the previous year.

Quarries.

10. There exist large deposits of marble of a superior grade and type in the vicinity of Mataji. It is, however, at present not worked out for lack of Railway transport facility.

Excise and Abkari.

11. A monopoly for the distilation and sale of country liquor for local consumption within the State limits has been granted to a private individual. The distillery is situated at the Capital, from which country liquor is supplied to 22 shops for retail vend. Opium and other narcotic drugs for local consumption were imported from Government Depots at Indore and Ahmedabad. The total gross revenue under the combined head of Excise and Abkari amounted to Rs. 15,683/- during the year under report as against Rs. 16,874/- the previous year.

CHAPTER VI.

Education.

General

The control of the Educational Department lies exclusively with the State. Education both primary and secondary is imparted free throughout the State. The Department was supervised by Mr. P. P. Desai, B. A. LL. B. throughout the year.

Schools.

2. The State maintains one Anglo-Vernacular School at the capital town of Danta Bhavangadh and four vernacular primary schools in the mofussil at Navovas, Mataji, Hadad and Vijlasan. The Anglo-Vernacular School at the Capital provides instructions in Gujarati upto VII standard and in English up to III standard. No separate schools are maintained for girls. Boys and girls are co-educated in the same schools. Backward class boys and girls are provided, free of charge, with books slates and other materials, and even board and clothes are supplied to those who are very poor and needy.

Attendance.

3. The total number of pupils on rolls during the year was 237 and the average daily attendance was 185.

Moral & Physical training

4. Moral and physical training of pupils is carefully attended to. They are paraded everyday in their respective classes to say the morning prayers, and two periods per week are devoted to giving them moral instructions. There is a specious playground on the outskirt of the Capital, where they are daily taken out to play cricket, football and other out-door games.

5. The Head-Master of the Anglo-Vernacular School at Danta is a trained hand and he has been able to introduce scouting in the Institution with considerable success. A batch of 40 boy-scouts has been well trained, disciplined and drilled. The Darbar was pleased to equip them with uniform dresses, etc., from the State funds. A batch of 25 senior scouts was taken out on an excursion on foot to Shri Mataji during the Navratri days and had a delightful outing for nearly a week.

Boy-Scout movement

6. During the year under report scholarships were granted for studies outside the State, as shown below:—

Scholarships.

3 for Upper Secondary Education.
1 for studies in Law.
2 for Sanskrit and Vedic studies.

7. A special grant of Rs. 200/- was given to the Jain Path-Shala at Navovas, during the year under report. The institution is a private one and was started by the Jain Banias of the State.

Grant-in-aid.

8. On the occasion of the birthday anniversary of Shri Maharaj Kumar Saheb a special programme of athletic sports for boys and girls of the school was arranged. Prizes were distributed by the Maharanaji Shri Saheb Bahadur to the winners and to those who had come out successful in the annual examinations, in the presence of a large gathering of officers and citizens.

Prize Distribution.

9. Total expenditure on education during the year under report, including the grant of scholarships, amounted to Rs. 5538 as against Rs. 4424 in the previous year.

Expenditure.

CHAPTER VII.

Medical Relief and Vital Statistics.

Medical Institutions.

There is one Hospital at Danta Bhavangadh and one Dispensary at Shri Mataji. Both these Institutions are entirely charitable and are equipped and maintained by the State. Under the orders of the Darbar, medical consultation, treatment and even visits are made available free of any charge to the general public in Danta Bhavangadh and the mofussil.

Personnel.

2. Dr Ramniklal I. Munim, M. B. B. S., was appointed Medical Officer of the State, vice Dr. Ambashanker M. Vyas, L. C. P. S, who proceeded on long leave owing to ill health. The Department remained in Charge of Dr. Munim, all throughout the year.

Medical Relief.

3. The total number of out-door and in-door patients treated at both the Institutions was 11,682 and 19 respectively, the daily average attendance during the year being 30.7.

Surgical Operations.

4. In the Danta Bhavangadh Hospital 99 minor operations were performed. No postmortem examination had to be made during the year.

Principal Diseases

5. The principal diseases treated during the year under report were mostly of the eye, ear, throat digestive and respiratory systems, intestinal parasites, local and general injuries, fevers.

including malaria and spleen infectious fevers, venereal diseases, wounds and septic ulcers.

Epidemics.

6. There was no epidemic of small-pox, cholera, plague, meningitis or malaria during the year.

Anti-Rabid Treatment.

7. Five cases of biting by rabid animals were reported, all of which were sent for anti-rabid treatment to the Civil Hospital at Ahmedabad at the State expenses.

Vaccination.

8. The control of the Vaccination Department is with the State. The number of cases vaccinated during the year was 827 as against 254 in the last year, with the lymph imported from Belgaum Vaccine Institution.

Public Health and Sanitation.

9. The general health of the public was good throughout the year. There is no municipality in the State and no conservancy tax is levied. Arrangements for sweeping the streets and for the removal of rubbish and refuge are made by the State through the Public Works Department.

Expenditure.

10. The total expenditure incurred during the year for medical relief including vaccination and sanitary arrangements amounted to Rs. 5,785 as against Rs. 4,455 in the previous year.

Vital Statistics.

11. The total number of births and deaths reported was 258 and 201 respectively. The birth and death rate per thousand of population during the year was 9·9 and 7·7 respectively.

CHAPTER VIII.

Miscellaneous.

Places of Interest & [illegible]

There are various old places of interest in the State from the religious point of view as well as from the point of view, both of architecture and natural scenery. The chief celebrated places among them are noted below:—

Shree Ambaji:—This place is a very old and holy shrine of Shri Ambaji at Mataji. The temple is dedicated to the Divine Mother and is annually visited by thousands of pilgrims from all parts of India. Fairs are held every full-moon day and during Navratri days.

Koteshwar:—This is a temple of God Shiva, situated on the hill slopes and at the source of the holy river Saraswati and is at a distance of 4 miles from Mataji. All pilgrims visiting Mataji go to this sacred place also.

Kumbharia:—These are a collection of five Jain old temples built by Vimalshah in the 11th century. They are built of local marble and contain fine specimens of exquisite carving. They are 2 miles away from Mataji. Many Jains and other pilgrims come here to pay homage to the wonderful marble images.

Mokheshwar:—A cave temple of Shiva sect on the bank of the Saraswati. A fair is annually held on the 11th day of the bright half of Bhadrapad.

Maneknath:—A cave temple on Maneknath hill in the Tarsang Mahal so called after a very famous Hindu Saint of the 15th century. A fair is held annually on Gokul Ashthami day.

Sitla Mata:—A temple near Pethapur. A fair is held at the Sitla Mata in the month of Shravan every year.

Chamundaji:—A temple near Vasi. A fair is held there in the month of Shravan every year.

Post and Telegraph

2. The State is served by the Indian Post and Telegraph Department. There is a combined Post and Telegraph Office at Danta-Bhavangadh and a Branch Post Office at Mataji.

Telephone.

3. The State maintains a Telephone system of its own, connecting important Thanas of the State to the Capital. It has greatly facilitated the administrative machinery and especially the work of the Police Department in speedily checking and detecting crimes.

Flour Mills

4. There are three Flour Mills, one at Mataji and two at the Capital, two belonging to private enterprisers and one to the State. All of them are working satisfactorily.

Conclusion.

5. The foregoing account of administration is on the whole gratifying, and this is mainly due to the sympathetic guidance, able direction, great care and personal supervision of the Darbar to whom my most grateful and profound thanks are due. My warm appreciation and thanks are also due to officers of the State for their hearty co-operation.

DANTA BHAVANGADH.
Dated 12th August 1934.

R. B. Divanji,
Diwan, Danta State.